Zack Fravel

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Education Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering

GPA: 3.112 | Major GPA: 3.250

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR.

Graduation: May 2018

Overview

2+ years experience working with VLSI design tools, VHDL, Verilog, and MIPS Assembly. Programming experience working with Python, C/C++, Java, JS, and HTML. Passionate about psychology, philosophy, and seeking out invigorating creative outlets.

Engineering Work

Framework for oxDNA Simulation Tools

Currently working with a team to develop a user friendly, web based front end for oxDNA, a widely used molecular self assembly simulation software. The website is intended to open up these powerful simulation and visualization tools to researchers who lack a computer science background.

64-point 8-bit Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) Design Project

Worked on a semi-custom VLSI design of a 64-point, 8-bit FFT. The project involved using VLSI design tools from Cadence (Virtuoso, Innovus), Synopsys (HSpice, Design Compiler, Primetime STA), and Mentor Graphics (ModelSim, Calibre) in order to synthesize, place, and route the design followed by analysis on timing, area, and power.

Low Power Vedic Multiplier Research

Performed research on designing low power CMOS Multiplier circuits using the Urdhva Tiryagbhyam Algorithm found in Vedic Mathematics. I implemented the circuits using structural Verilog and tested their effectiveness in lowering power consumption by synthesizing and comparing power analysis results with shift-add multipliers in Vivado.

Microprocessor Architecture Simulation and Synthesis Projects

Worked on two independent projects simulating RISC microprocessors. The first project was a behavioral simulation of a pipelined MIPS architecture in VHDL while the second implemented a bus architecture with custom instructions. The latter was designed using Verilog and fully synthesized with the Synopsys Design Compiler using a 90nm process.

Embedded Systems Terasic Spider Robotics Project

Worked with a team on a multi-month project revolving around an Altera FPGA Spider robot. This class was helpful for getting experience with VLSI design tools and FPGAs, designing modules like edge detectors, debouncers, and a wishbone UART controller.

Android Client/Server Mobile App Software Development

Lead user interface developer in a group project dedicated to the design of a mobile appusing Android for a cashier service with integrated SQL databases and shopping cart.

Extracurriculars

Modular Synthesist

I have learned an enormous amount about electronics and art though performing local music and visual shows with a eurorack modular synthesizer. My experience with modular synthesizers in a lot of ways opened up my creativity and gave me new insights into the relationship between engineering and the creative process.

KXUA Radio DJ

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (2014 - 2016)

References

Dr. Matthew Patitz (479) 575-5590 patitz@uark.edu
Dr. Jia Di (479) 575-5728 jdi@uark.edu

Curriculum CSCE Courses

Programming Foundations (I, II)

Digital Deisgn

Computer Organization

Programming Paradigms

Software Engineering

Operating Systems

System Synthesis and Modeling

Embedded Systems

Low Power Digital Systems

Advanced Digital Design

Computer Architecture

Computer Graphics

Current Applications in Graph Theory (Graduate research course)

Capstone (I, II)

Notable Electives

Circuits and Electronics

Abnormal Psychology

Cognitive Psychology

Comparative Psychology

Ethics and the Professions

Contemporary Ethical Theory